PRESIDENT: That is given in the reply itself. It is answered in parts (*e*) and (*f*). Government wanted to try that system.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are there not records to show the reasons why it was considered necessary at that time?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government wanted to try the experiment of the sale of salt by contractors instead of undertaking it direct themselves.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to parts (*e*) and (*f*), what is the loss?

MR S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is stated in the answer that it is not possible to calculate the loss, if any.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the advantage, if any, in giving the sale of salt to a contractor?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a well-recognised principle that Government should not engage themselves in trade wherever private agencies can be had for the purpose; and that principle applies to salt also.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it not ended in disaster?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar's Salt Contract.

73. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to say:

(*a*) whether Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar sent any notice of suit against the Government towards the end of 1098 or the beginning of 1099 for damages on account of the loss of salt in the cyclone;

(*b*) whether any new concession has been given to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar for the transport or supply of salt besides the concession given before; and

(*c*) what the approximate loss to the Government under the item of recoveries on account of the concessions given to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes. But he withdrew it soon afterwards.

(*b*) No new concession has been given. Mr. Karayalar has been allowed to transport and sell Tuticorin salt until home salt becomes available.

(*c*) The member is referred to the answer to part (*e*) of question No. 72.

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